CLAIMS:

1. A fence having at least one hollow rail and a plurality of pickets supported by the rail, wherein the pickets enter the rail by passage through respective entry apertures in the rail, and are fastened to the rail by fastening means located inside the rail.

2. A fence according to claim 1 wherein the fastening means includes a portion of each picket located inside the rail that has been deformed after entry of the picket within the rail and thereby prevents further passage of the pickets through their respective entry apertures.

3. A fence according to claim 2 wherein the portion of each picket that has been deformed within the rail has a partly flattened shape that no longer matches the shape of the respective entry aperture in the rail.

4. A fence according to claim 1 wherein each picket includes a fastening aperture located within the rail and the fastening means includes a rod that passes through the fastening apertures and thereby prevents further passage of the pickets through their respective entry apertures.

5. A fence according to claim 4 wherein the fastening apertures on the pickets are located adjacent an inner surface of the rail and the rod has been forced through the fastening apertures against resistance from the inside surface of the rail.

6. A fence according to claim 1 wherein the pickets pass though only one side of the rail and end at an internal wall within the rail, end portions of the pickets being held in respective apertures of the internal wall.

7. A fence having at least one hollow rail and a plurality of pickets supported by the rail, wherein the rail has an external wall with entry apertures for the pickets, and an internal structure for holding end portions of the pickets, and wherein each picket enters

the rail through a respective entry aperture and has an end portion which is held by the internal structure.

8. A fence according to claim 7 wherein the internal structure of the rail includes a wall with holding apertures for respective end portions of the pickets.

9. A fence according to claim 8 wherein the holding apertures are aligned with the entry apertures so that the pickets are perpendicular to the rail.

10. A fence according to claim 8 wherein the holding apertures are offset from the entry apertures so that the pickets are not perpendicular to the rail.

11. A fence according to claim 9 wherein the internal structure is moveable within the rail to vary the alignment of the holding apertures and the entry apertures.

12. A fence according to claim 7 wherein the internal structure includes a plurality of flanges which receive end portions of respective pickets.

13. A fence according to claim 7 wherein the pickets are fastened to the rail by fastening means provided inside the rail, either a rod that connects the pickets within the rail or a deformed portion of each picket within the rail.

14. A method of forming a picket structure, including: providing a hollow rail to support a plurality of pickets, passing each picket at least partly through the rail, and fastening the pickets to the rail from within the rail.

15. A method according to claim 14, further including providing a pair of hollow rails to support the pickets, passing each picket entirely through at least one of the rails, and fastening the pickets to the rails from within the rails.

16. A method according to claim 14, further including aligning all of the pickets with the rail and fastening the pickets to the rail by a substantially continuous movement of a crimping tool through the rail.

17. A method according to claim 16 further including passing the crimping tool longitudinally one way through the rail before passing the pickets laterally through the rail, and then drawing the tool back through the rail to crimp the pickets from within the rail.

18. A method according to claim 16 further including passing the pickets laterally through the rail and then passing the crimping tool longitudinally back and forth through the rail to crimp the pickets from within the rail.

19. Apparatus for forming a fence panel including: a frame for supporting two or more rails of the panel in position to receive pickets, a fastening tool mounted on the frame in alignment or for alignment with the rails, and a tool driver that drives the tool through the rails to fasten the pickets to the rails from within the rails.

20. Apparatus according to claim 19 wherein the frame supports a panel having two parallel rails and the fastening tool has two parallel crimping rods aligned with the rails.

21. Apparatus according to claim 20 wherein each rod of the crimping tool has an expanded end portion that deforms the pickets within the rail.

22. Apparatus according to claim 19 wherein the driver pushes the tool through the rails before the pickets are placed in the rails and then pulls the tool back through the rails to fasten the pickets in place.

23. Apparatus according to claim 19 wherein the driver pushes and pulls the tool into and out of the rails after the pickets are in place.